SUPPLEMENT TO THE

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

LONDON SATURDAY JUNE 12 1943

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL SUMMER SESSION

(Continued)

Inspection of Qualifying Examinations

The business before the General Medical Council at its summer session, other than the investigation of disciplinary cases, was very slight. On the joint recommendation of the Education and Examination Committees it was agreed that arrangements should be made as soon as possible for an inspection on behalf of the Council of qualifying examinations held by all licensing bodies or examining boards whose examinations have not already been inspected in pursuance of a recommendation adopted by the Council a year ago. That inspection was limited to the examinations of bodies which have adopted the recommendation of the Medical Personnel (Priority) Committee that, as a matter of emergency, students who produce evidence of having completed the whole curriculum after not less than 30 months' certified clinical studies shall be admitted to the qualifying examinations. Of the 22 licensing bodies in the United Kingdom 18 have already adopted the recommendation of the Priority Committee. Eire was not affected by the recommendation, but its five licensing bodies have all invited the attendance of inspectors at their qualifying examination this summer. It is therefore proposed now to arrange for an inspection on behalf of the Council of the qualifying examinations of the bodies which are not within the scope of the Priority Committee's recommendation. One reason for this is to enable the Council to use such information in its bearing on any proposals for amendment of the educational provisions of the Medical Acts.

The "British Pharmacopoeia"

The report of the Pharmacopoeia Committee to the Council embodied a report by the British Pharmacopoeia Commission, in which its chairman, Prof. J. A. Gunn, stated that in further planning for future revision of the *British Pharmacopoeia* the Commission believed that the publication of a complete new issue should be deferred until after the war, and that the practice of publishing additions and amendments to monographs and appendices, as they became ready, by means of addenda should be continued. These addenda should provide for the revision of the *Pharmacopoeia* both from the point of view of the war emergency and also from the general standpoint of the advancement of medical and pharmaceutical science. The preparation of the Sixth Addendum to the 1932 issue has now been completed. The addendum will contain formulae for a series of ointments prepared with an emulsion base. In these new ointments a considerable proportion of fats and paraffins is replaced by water, and a substantial saving in materials and transport is effected.

DISCIPLINARY INQUIRIES

Wrongful Certificates

The Council considered the case of WILLIAM VINCENT SAINT JOHN SUTTON, registered as of Shadwell, London, who had been convicted at the Central Criminal Court of giving medical certificates to two persons in H.M. Forces and to a person engaged in the National Fire Service, having reasonable cause to believe that the certificates were likely to interfere with or prevent the performance of their duties. He had been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment.

Mr. Winterbotham, the Council's solicitor, said that there were four cases in the indictment, but Dr. Sutton had desired some fifty others to be taken into consideration. It appeared that the authorities had learned that a number of men in East London were getting extension of leave by visiting Dr. Sutton, who practised in a converted shop, which was in a filthy condition, and by paying a few shillings got a certificate stating that they were suffering from a cold or from some minor malady. Dr. Sutton had at first pleaded "Not guilty" to the charges, but afterwards, on the advice of his counsel, had amended his plea to "Guilty." The judge, in passing sentence, described his action as sabotaging the national effort. In defence of Dr. Sutton, who did not appear, a letter was read from his daughter, protesting that the certificates were issued in good faith, and that his plea of "Guilty" was foolishly made because counsel said that if he so pleaded he would be let off with a fine. It was also mentioned that a petition had been sent to the Home Office on Dr. Sutton's behalf signed by 280 persons in the East End.

The Council directed the erasure of Dr. Sutton's name.

Convictions of Misdemeanours

The Council considered the case of WILLIAM ALEXANDER STEVENSON WELSH, registered as of Radnor Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, who had been convicted in April, 1942, at Manchester on four charges of obtaining money by false and fraudulent pretences, and sentenced to four concurrent terms of four months' imprisonment. He was also found guilty by a court martial in Dec., 1940, in two cases of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, and in seven cases of giving cheques without making arrangements for them to be honoured when presented. A further charge was added to the list, that in March, 1943, Dr. Welsh was convicted of obtaining £15 on false pretences, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour. In a letter from prison Dr. Welsh declared that all his cheques had been honoured up to within a few weeks, the amounts were small in proportion to his then income, he had had no intention of defrauding anyone, and his difficulties had been the result of mental stress, partly caused by domestic worry.

The Council directed the Registrar to erase Dr. Welsh's name.

The Council considered the case of CHRISTOPHER WHITEHEAD, registered as of Greystone, Co. Wicklow, who was summoned on two convictions: one in July, 1942, at Leicester, of being found drunk, and the other in March, 1943, at Penarth, of obtaining a sum of money by false pretences. On the latter conviction he was sentenced to four months' imprisonment.

After hearing Dr. Whitehead's explanation, the Council, while finding the convictions proved, did not see fit to direct the Registrar to erase the name.

Motoring Offences

The Council considered the case of ERIC LLEWELYN WILLIAMS, registered as of Old Colwyn, Denbighshire, who appeared on the charge that on March 17 he was convicted at Southport of unlawfully using motor fuel for a purpose not mentioned in the application in response to which the coupons were issued, and on the same date of being in charge of a motor car while under the influence of drink to such an extent as to be incapable of having proper control of the vehicle. He was fined £20 for the first offence and £25 for the second, with £2 5s. 6d. witnesses' expenses, and his driving licence was endorsed.

It was stated that he had received a warning previously from the Council. Dr. Williams appeared and made apology and explanation and produced evidence of character and good conduct.

The Council found the facts proved, but postponed judgment for two years.

Cases for Postponed Judgment

In the case of PATRICK JOSEPH MOLLOY, registered as of Hoe Street, London, E.17, in which, at the May, 1942, session, a charge of lax certification was proved but judgment was postponed for twelve months, and in that of PATRICK KENNEDY, registered as of South Harrow, in which, at the May, 1941, session, convictions of being in charge of a motor car while under the influence of drink had been proved but judgment was postponed for two years, the Council did not see fit to direct the Registrar to erase the names, both practitioners having satisfied the Council as to their practice in the interval.

Dental Erasure

The Registrar of the Dental Board was instructed to erase from the *Dentists Register* the name of IVOR LLEWELLYN EDMUNDS, registered as care of Lloyd's Bank, Regent Street, London, following convictions of falsification of accounts and embezzlement.

(To be continued)

CONSULTANTS AND SPECIALISTS GROUP

Membership of the Consultants and Specialists Group of the B.M.A. is open to those members of the Association who sign a declaration that they are not engaged in general practice in any form, but practise exclusively as consultants or specialists. Forms of application for membership may be obtained from the Secretary, British Medical Association, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

Correspondence

A Vote of the Profession

SIR,—One of the characteristic features of this controversy is the wide divergence of opinion shown, due to the peculiar caste system of medical practice, in which each member is inclined to regard such problems from his own particular angle. To organize a common front from such divergent types as consultants, colliery doctors, men in big industrial practices, those in fashionable resorts, not to mention the country doctor, will be no easy matter. If a doctor comes to the conclusion that on the whole he would be better off under a State system he will vote in favour of it; if, on the other hand, he is convinced that he would be the loser on the transaction he will certainly vote against it.

In such a case it is a question for the majority to decide by the method suggested by one of your correspondents—a postal referendum. Incidentally, it would be interesting to know what the public think about it all. So far as I can see they show little interest in the matter. One of them said to me: "Trust the doctors to look after themselves"; let us hope he is right.—I am, etc.,

Leicester. E. J. O'SULLIVAN.

Serving Officers' Views of Salaried Service

SIR,—I have recently returned to this country from abroad, where I was on active service at the time that the Beveridge proposals were made public. I should like to put on record the feelings to those proposals of the medical officers with whom I came in contact and the subsequent discussions.

At first there was a feeling of grave anxiety at the absence of immediate response from practitioners at home, who seemed to be too busy to realize that their future livelihood was at stake. Later much consternation was expressed at the outlook of the Press and the public, who seemed to stress that the medical man must be reduced in status and salary to the level of a clerk before any attempt was made to so interfere with any other profession or trade. Many medical officers gave me good reasons why the coal and automobile industries, banking, and shipping have merited prior places in national reform.

I spoke on the subject to a large number of officers in the course of my evacuation to a base hospital, and the general feeling was that *no* action can be too drastic to prevent us remaining after the war full-time salaried servants of the State.

I would like this letter brought to the attention of the Representative Committee. I have no personal axe to grind in general practice; disability from my wounds precludes that.—I am, etc.,

L. H. G. MOORE, M.B., Ch.B.

Birmingham.

Dr. A. G. Davies, a doctor in general practice in Cardiff, appeared before the Stipendiary Magistrate on April 21, charged with failure to comply with the direction of a National Service Officer given under the Defence (General) Regulations, requiring him to undertake a resident hospital post. Dr. Davies, who pleaded not guilty, was found guilty and fined £5 and £10 10s. costs. Payment was suspended pending application for a case to be stated.

OPHTHALMIC GROUP COMMITTEE OF THE B.M.A.

A meeting of the Ophthalmic Group Committee was held, under the chairmanship of Dr. O. G. Morgan, on May 7. The question of the fee for ophthalmic medical examination under the National Eye Service was raised again by one member, who urged the enforcement of the guinea fee for all persons whose incomes exceeded £250 a year. He said that the only arguments in favour of postponement were based on the opposition of the approved societies, but if the Beveridge scheme came into effect the approved societies would presumably cease to exist, whereas if the Beveridge scheme were postponed for some years ophthalmologists could not be expected to wait indefinitely for adequate remuneration. In reply it was pointed out that the objection of the approved societies was not to the higher fee in principle but to the difficulty from an administrative point of view of distinguishing between two income groups of insured persons. Ophthalmologists were also reminded that the service was instituted to provide an ophthalmic medical examination for the lower-income section of the community. A motion in favour of the immediate enforcement of the committee's recommendation made in 1941—i.e., that all insured persons with an income exceeding £250 should be required to pay a fee of one guinea for an ophthalmic medical examination—was not carried.

A Post-war National Eye Service

The remainder of a long afternoon session was taken up with consideration of a draft scheme for a post-war National Eye Service. The scheme was amended in various respects and was referred to a number of ophthalmological organizations for their observations. It will then be considered by a meeting of the members of the entire Ophthalmic Group of the B.M.A.

H.M.Forces Appointments

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Re-entered as Surg. Lieut. E. L. James.

Prob. Temp. Surg. Lieuts. A. H. Dunkerley, S. A. James, R. H. Leaver, J. C. A. Innes, M. A. Slee, R. F. G. Lyons, J. H. Wainwright, S. Moss, A. G. O'Malley, R. M. Mathers, J. Le F. Milburn, P. E. Coffey, R. G. Samuel, J. S. Rodgers, J. M. Swithinbank, R. F. G. Barker, G. R. Kershaw, C. F. Cooper, R. C. E. Moffat, C. F. C. Parkinson, W. F. Frazer, L. R. McLaren, W. M. Brown, T. Cochrane, P. W. Edward, G. H. Bedwell, C. E. R. Payne, F. G. H. Watson, M. L. Singer, C. C. Shaw, E. Millar, W. A. Maclure, E. V. Mackay, and T. E. L. J. McNair to be Temp. Surg. Lieuts.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Lieut.-Col. R. A. Flood, M.C., has reverted to the rank of Major at his own request whilst so employed.

Capts. (temp. Majors) J. C. Reed and P. O'Shea to be Majors.

Capt. C. King to be Major.

TERRITORIAL ARMY: R.A.M.C.

Lieut.-Col. A. MacG. Duff, M.C., T.D., has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health and has been granted the honorary rank of Col.

LAND FORCES: EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

War Subs. Capt. E. D. Kinsey, M.C., has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health and has been granted the honorary rank of Major.

Capt. D. G. French has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health and has been granted the honorary rank of Capt.

Capt. R. Y. Stones, O.B.E., M.C., to be Lieut., and has relinquished the rank of Capt.

Lieut. H. James has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health and has been granted the honorary rank of Lieut.

The notification regarding Lieut. Aitolia Georgiadis in a *Supplement* to the *London Gazette* dated March 5 has been cancelled.

F. Hennessey, M.C., to be Lieut.

WOMEN'S FORCES

EMPLOYED WITH THE R.A.M.C.

War Subs. Capt. C. M. F. Purves has relinquished her commission on account of ill-health, and has been granted the honorary rank of Capt.

Aitolia Georgiadis to be Lieut.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Temp. Squad. Ldrs. D. J. Dawson, J. H. Neal, J. F. Dales, J. H. Cullinan, J. C. Taylor, C. C. Barker, H. E. Bellringer, J. S. Wilson, G. Gilchrist, J. R. Cellars, J. R. R. Jenkins, H. L. Willcox, L. M. Crooks, G. B. MacGibbon, J. W. Patrick, J. C. Blair, R. L. Soper, R. H. Pratt, D. F. S. Shaw, and W. T. Buckle have been granted the rank of War Subs. Squad. Ldr.

ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Fl. Lieuts. C. A. Forssander and B. Roditi have relinquished their commissions on account of ill-health and retain their rank.

Fl. Lieut. J. C. Kitchin has resigned his commission and retains his rank.

Flying Officers W. H. Craike, G. W. Roberts, E. J. Noble, J. H. P. Davies-Sage, A. P. Hardman, D. Agnew, L. C. Lodge, M. McMurrich, L. Read, A. F. Upton, R. T. Hastings-James, T. G. Hynes, H. J. L. Dickinson, E. C. Eadie, P. H. Hay-Heddle, J. Dougall, and A. L. C. Harrop to be War Subs. Fl. Lieuts.

The notification in a *Supplement* to the *London Gazette* dated Jan. 29, p. 545, col. 2, concerning A. P. Gastoni should have read A. P. Gaston.

WOMEN'S FORCES

EMPLOYED WITH THE MEDICAL BRANCH OF THE R.A.F.

The following M.O.s with the rank of Flying Officer to be War Subs. Fl. Lieuts.: I. Shepherd, J. B. T. Logan, E. Pearse.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE

Lieut.-Col. J. R. Katariya has retired.

Major K. R. Sahgal to be Lieut.-Col.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

Lieuts. J. G. H. Davidson and W. B. Johnston to be Capts.

WEEKLY POSTGRADUATE DIARY

FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE, 1, Wimpole Street, W.—*West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases:* Tues. and Fri., 3 p.m., M.R.C.P. course in neurology. *London Homoeopathic Hospital:* Wed. afternoon, Clinical surgery demonstration. *National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart:* Tues. and Wed., 10 a.m., Out-patient Clinics.

EDINBURGH POSTGRADUATE LECTURES.—At Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, *Thurs.*, 4.30 p.m. Miss R. Pybus: The Protective Diet.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.—*Fri.*, 3.30 p.m. Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Members of Section of Surgery are specially invited to attend. *Sat.* (June 19), 2.30 p.m. Section of Psychiatry.

CHADWICK TRUST.—At Chelsea Physic Garden, Swan Walk, Chelsea, S.W., *Thurs.*, 4 p.m. Mr. F. J. Chittenden: Plants causing Irritation.

B.M.A.: Diary of Central Meetings

JUNE

22 Tues. Journal Board, 4 p.m.
23 Wed. **Council**, 10 a.m.

B.M.A.: Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

EDINBURGH AND SOUTH-EAST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH.—At Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, Wed., June 16, 2.30 p.m. Annual meeting. Mr. C. W. Graham: A Consultant's Experiences in the Middle East.

APPOINTMENTS

RAFTERY, LILIAN, M.R.C.O.G., 1st Assistant, Gynaecological and Obstetric Department, London Hospital, E.

RIGGALL, R. M., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., Deputy Medical Superintendent, Cefn Coed Hospital, Swansea.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS

The charge for inserting announcements under this head is 10s. 6d. This amount should be forwarded with the notice, authenticated with the name and address of the sender, and should reach the Advertisement Manager not later than first post Monday morning to ensure insertion in the current issue.

DEATH

CRAWFORD.—On June 1, at Bidford-on-Avon, Henry Marston Laird, M.C., M.D., fifth son of the late Sir Thomas Crawford, K.C.B., LL.D., late Director-General, Army Medical Service.